THE DAILY ACCOUNTABILITY RECORD OF DELHI'S AIR

500

AQI at Chhawla, 24 hours to 4 PM, 09 November 2026, the worst monitor in Delhi today, Severe on CPCB's documented formula, and PM2.5 set that figure. 1.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it.

Delhi's AQI was 413.8, Severe, calculated with CPCB's documented formula as the mean of 47 stations' AQIs (CPCB's note "How is AQI calculated?" and its AQI Calculator; page 28 sets out the formula). As measured, 47 of the 47 monitors reading PM2.5 were above the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³. Above AQI 200 today: 47 stations, Chhawla 500, Aya Nagar 490, Punjabi Bagh 477, IGI Airport (T3) 460, and 43 more in the station table. Poor or worse air reached 1.90 crore people within 4 km of their monitor today, 83.8 per cent of Delhi.

The year so far, 1 January to 8 November: the cleaner days of 2026 have been the dirtiest for these dates since 2019, because three days in four read above 107.8 on the particle AQI, against 95.0 on the same dates of 2025. The middle day reads 157.4 against 146.6 on the same dates last year. On an average day, 29.1 per cent of Delhi's reporting monitors, about 13 of 44, sat above 200 on the particle AQI.

413.8

TODAY

Delhi's AQI calculated with CPCB's documented formula, the mean of 47 stations.

1.90 crore

NEAR POOR OR WORSE

Within 4 km of 47 Poor-or-worse monitors: 83.8 per cent of Delhi, every pollutant counted.

17.6x

THE WHO 24-HOUR LINE

Delhi's PM2.5 today, as measured, against the WHO 24-hour guideline.

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026 (CREA compilation); 2025 electoral shares; official 1 July 2026 Delhi NCT projection; WorldPop 2026 grid; CREA's compilation of CPCB data since 2019; WHO guidelines, 2021.

The air record

09 November 2026 · Delhi, as measured, on CPCB's data and its documented formula

Published by Shri Ajay Maken, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

The negatives, the demands, the danger

FOR THE RECORD, 09 NOVEMBER 2026, 24 HOURS TO 4 PM. Chhawla read 500, Severe, set by PM2.5; 1.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it. The monitors gave Delhi 413.8, calculated with CPCB's documented formula (CPCB's note "How is AQI calculated?" and its AQI Calculator; page 28).

What this record finds today

- Three of every four days of 2026 so far read above 107.8 on the particle AQI, the highest that line has stood for 1 January to 8 November since 2019, when it was 113.6; the middle day rose from 146.6 to 157.4.
- Against last year the observed index reads 35.6 points worse, 9.3 per cent above it.
- Chhawla read 500, Severe, set by PM2.5, while the city average read Severe, and 1.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it. An average is not an experience.
- PM2.5 averaged 265.1 µg/m³ over the 24 hours to 4 PM as measured, 17.6 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³; all 47 monitors with a PM2.5 figure sat above that guideline.

What we ask of the Government

- Fix the worst stations daily; a city average must never bury a neighbourhood.
- Keep the full monitoring network up: every gas channel, every hour; a meter that cannot measure is not a clean-air policy. On 9 November, 12 of the 47 monitors that reported gave no reading for at least one of the six pollutants.

The health hazard

- Today's category, Severe, in CPCB's own words, Table 3.12 of its National AQI report: "May cause respiratory effects even on healthy people and serious health impacts on people with lung/heart diseases. The health impacts may be experienced even during light physical activity"
- WHO's 2021 guidelines say the evidence points to no level of PM2.5 below which harm stops, and that even the annual guideline of 5 µg/m³ is not a level of no effect.
- The fine particles pass from the lungs into the blood; the burden falls first on children, the elderly, and those who work outdoors and cannot choose their air.
- If each of those standards were paired with halving the share of households cooking with solid fuel, deaths avoided would exceed 300,000, 500,000 and 675,000 a year. (Sinha, Cropper and others 2026, mortality and economic benefits of meeting air standards in India, 2026, Abstract; Table 2).

Shri Ajay Maken

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026 (CREA compilation); 2025 electoral shares; official 1 July 2026 Delhi NCT projection; WorldPop 2026 grid; CREA's compilation of CPCB data since 2019; WHO guidelines, 2021; CPCB National AQI report, Table 3.12; Sinha, Cropper and others 2026, mortality and economic benefits of meeting air standards in India (2026), Abstract; Table 2, row HP-073 of the health evidence base.

What this record holds, page by page

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24 Every station, contd. — the full network table

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29 Sources — every source, dated

One fact per page, provable at a glance

Four ways in, depending on the minute you are in



01 Part A. Against the WHO

The summary, then PM2.5 and PM10 against the WHO 24-hour guideline, and every pollutant.

Pages 01, 02, then 05 onward.

02 Part B. Observed

What the monitors said: the stations, the 30 days, last year, the year so far.

Pages 07 onward.

03 Part C. People, reference, method

Who the network reaches, the full tables, and how every number is made.

Pages 18 onward.

What a residual is. One day's level minus the same days of last year. Above zero means worse than last year. It is a difference, never a level.

What the margin is. The band inside which a figure is too close to call. Where a change sits inside its margin, this record says so and rests no claim on it.

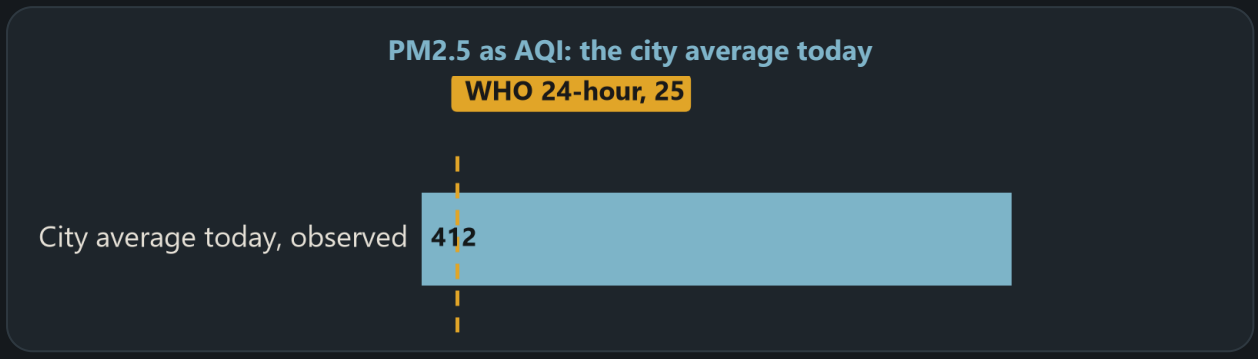
The tab
It names the data and the exact window.

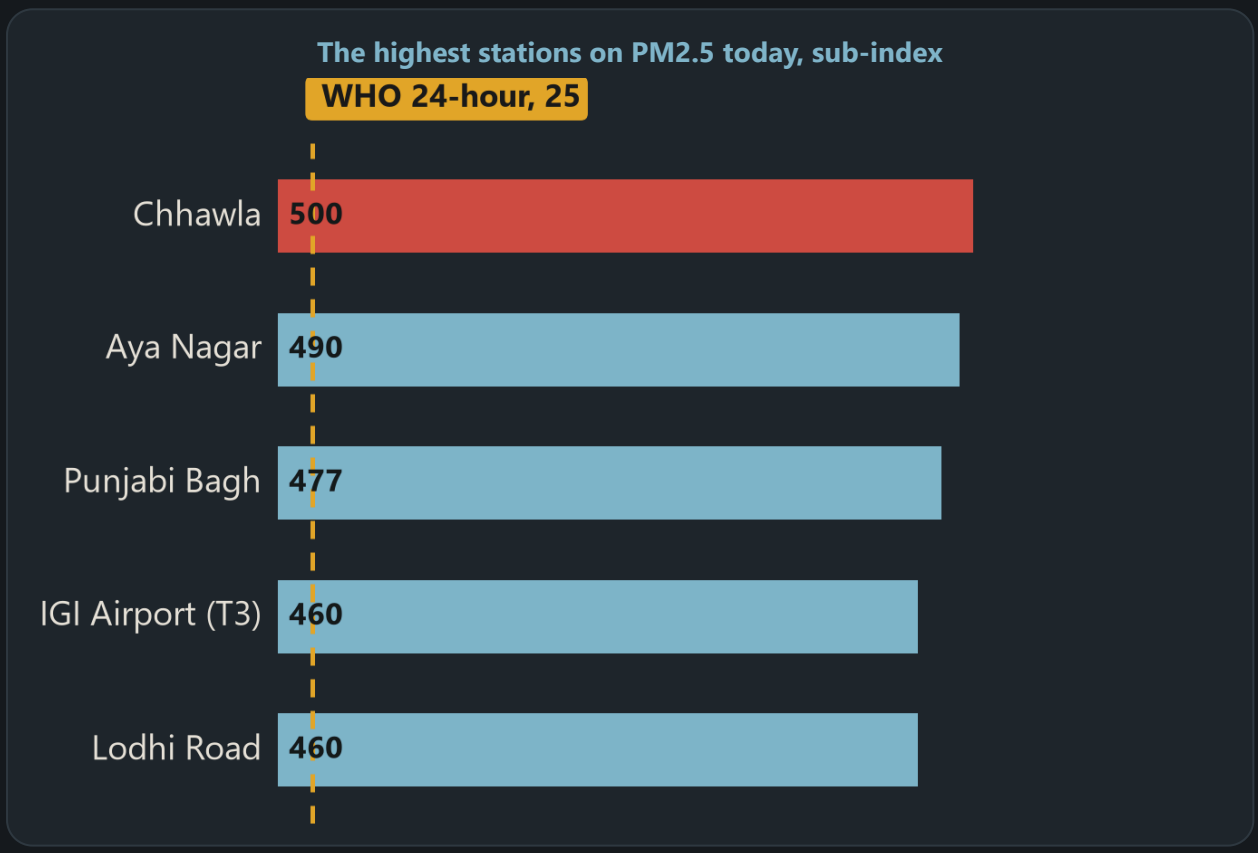
The banner
It states the finding, ready to be read out.

The three zones
Reading, caution and a dated source under every chart.

The point
The dark band restates the page's sharpest fact.

PM2.5 against the WHO 24-hour guideline





READING Reading: every bar is a CPCB sub-index for PM2.5, the conversion of µg/m³ onto CPCB's index scale through CPCB's published breakpoints. The dashed line is the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³, which sits at sub-index 25 on the first, linear segment of that scale.

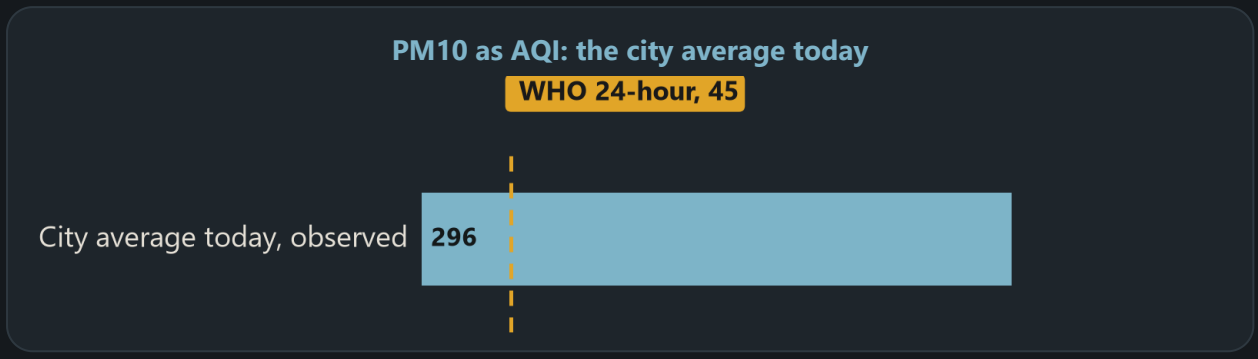
CAUTION Caution: every sub-index on this page is the observed one, on CPCB's documented formula, and one station's figure describes one neighbourhood.

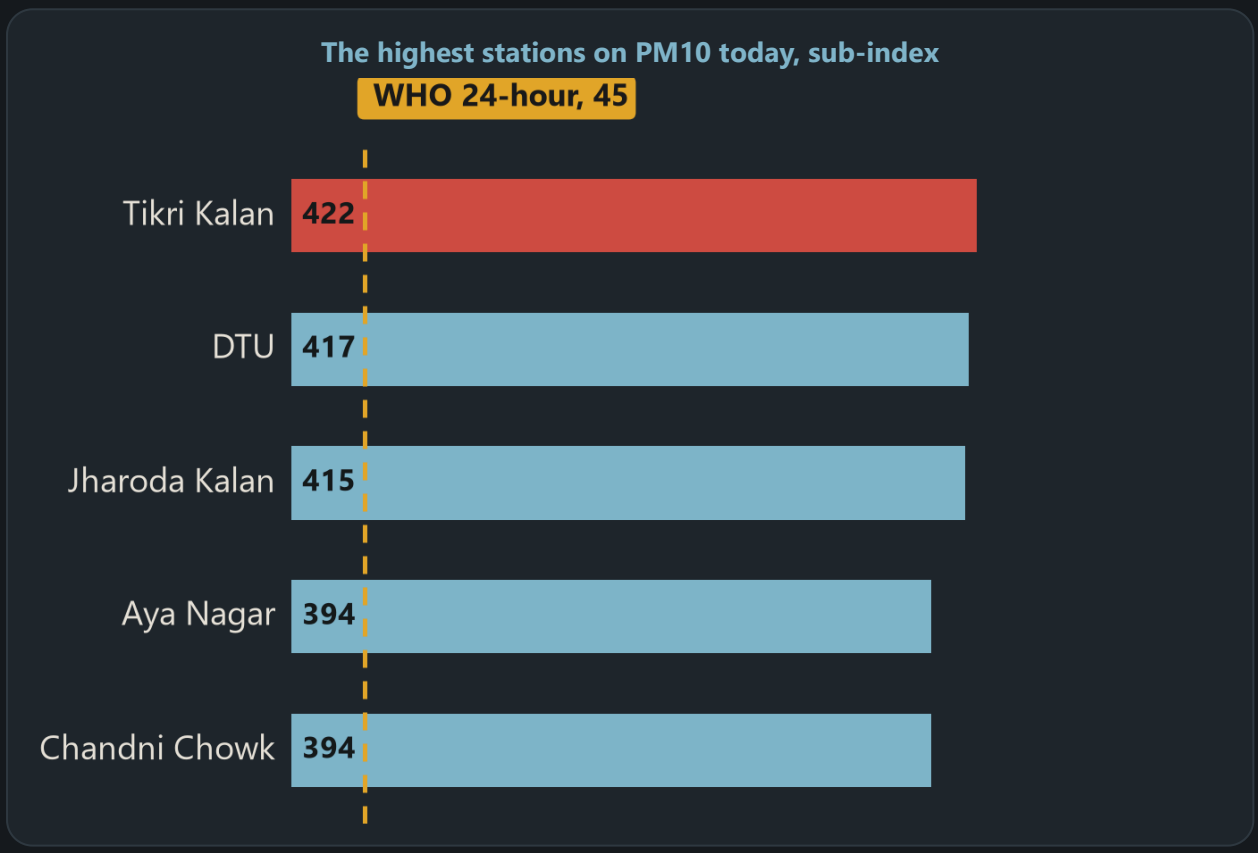
SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Delhi's PM2.5 averaged 265.1 µg/m³ today, 17.6 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³, and Chhawla averaged 421.7 µg/m³, 28.1 times it.

PM10 against the WHO 24-hour guideline





READING Reading: every bar is a CPCB sub-index for PM10, the conversion of µg/m³ onto CPCB's index scale through CPCB's published breakpoints. The dashed line is the WHO 24-hour guideline of 45 µg/m³, which sits at sub-index 45 on the first, linear segment of that scale.

CAUTION Caution: every sub-index on this page is the observed one, on CPCB's documented formula, and one station's figure describes one neighbourhood.

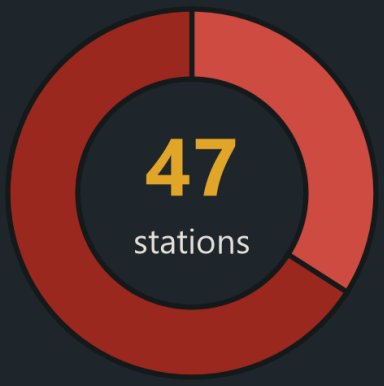
SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Delhi's PM10 averaged 346.2 µg/m³ today, 7.6 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 45 µg/m³, and Tikri Kalan averaged 445.2 µg/m³, 9.8 times it.

One average, and the spread it hides

All 47 stations, by category



The same count, category by category



Which pollutant set each station's figure today



READING Reading: each station reports its own AQI; the wheel and the bars are the same 47 stations counted by category. The lower panel counts the same stations by the pollutant that set each one's figure. Zero counts are printed as zeros.

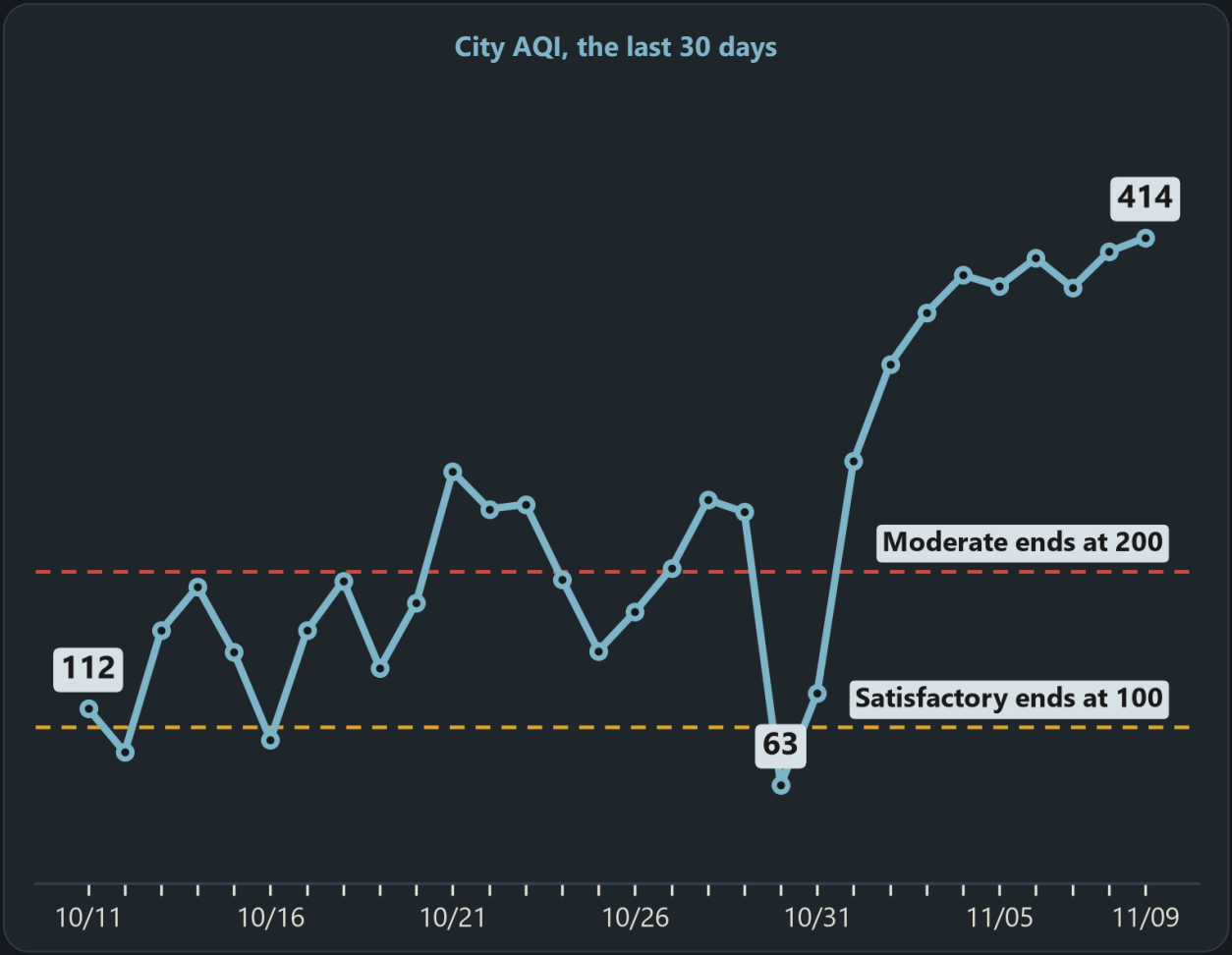
CAUTION Caution: the city headline is the mean of station AQIs, so one bad station can sit inside a Satisfactory average. A station's leading pollutant is the worst of its own sub-indices, not a ranking of how much of each was in the air.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Chhawla read 500, Severe, set by PM2.5, on a day the city average read Severe.

Thirty days of the index





READING Reading: the line is the city mean of station AQIs, one point per day. The dashed lines are the CPCB category boundaries. The lower panel counts the same thirty days by the category each one fell in.

CAUTION Caution: each day is the 24 hours ending 4 PM, and not the calendar day, so this line and a midnight series will differ.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Thirty days ago the city read 112, on 53 reporting stations, and today it reads 414, on 47.

Against yesterday: the one-day move

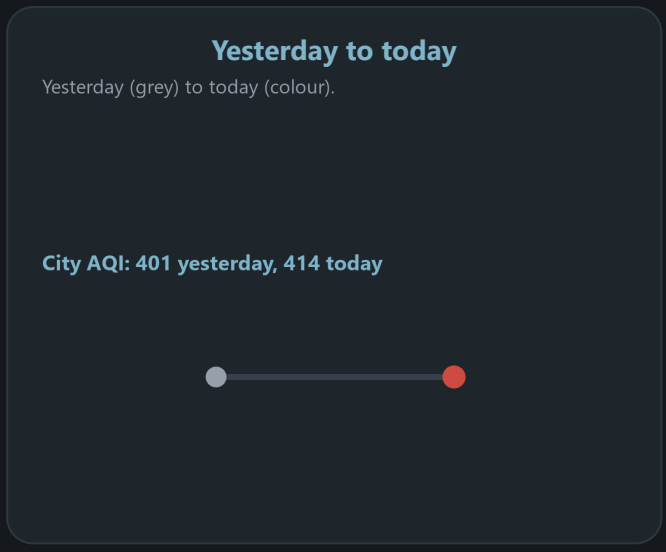
13.1

points on yesterday

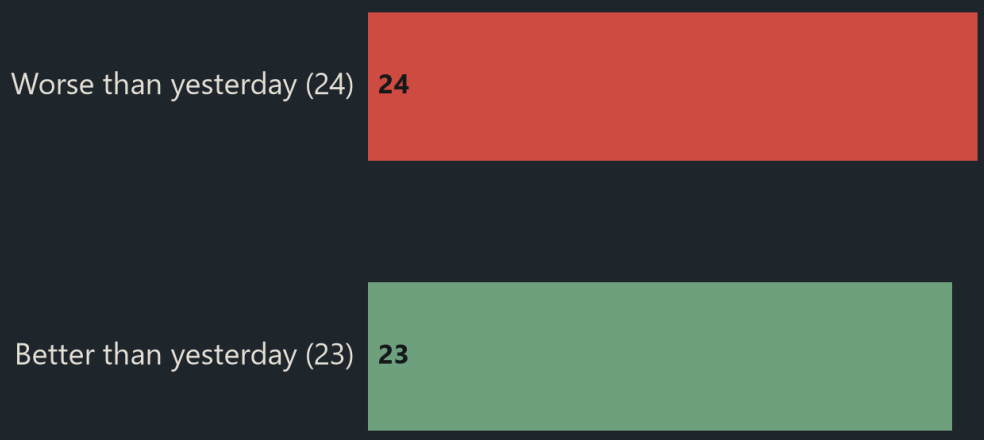
From 401 to 414. On the 47 stations that reported on both days, the 95 per cent interval runs -8.3 to 34.4 points, so the honest reading is level, not worse.

Yesterday to today

Yesterday (grey) to today (colour).



Which way each matched station moved since yesterday



READING Reading: the grey dot is yesterday, the coloured dot today; red marks a worsening. The lower panel splits the same matched stations by which way each one moved.

CAUTION

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

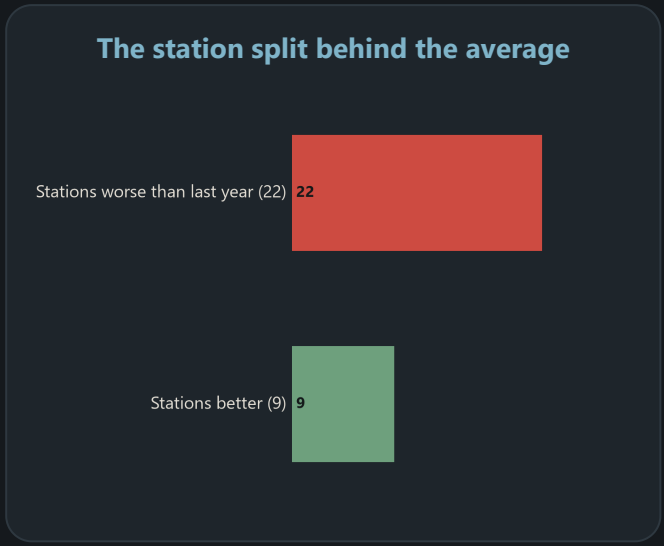
One day proves nothing on its own.

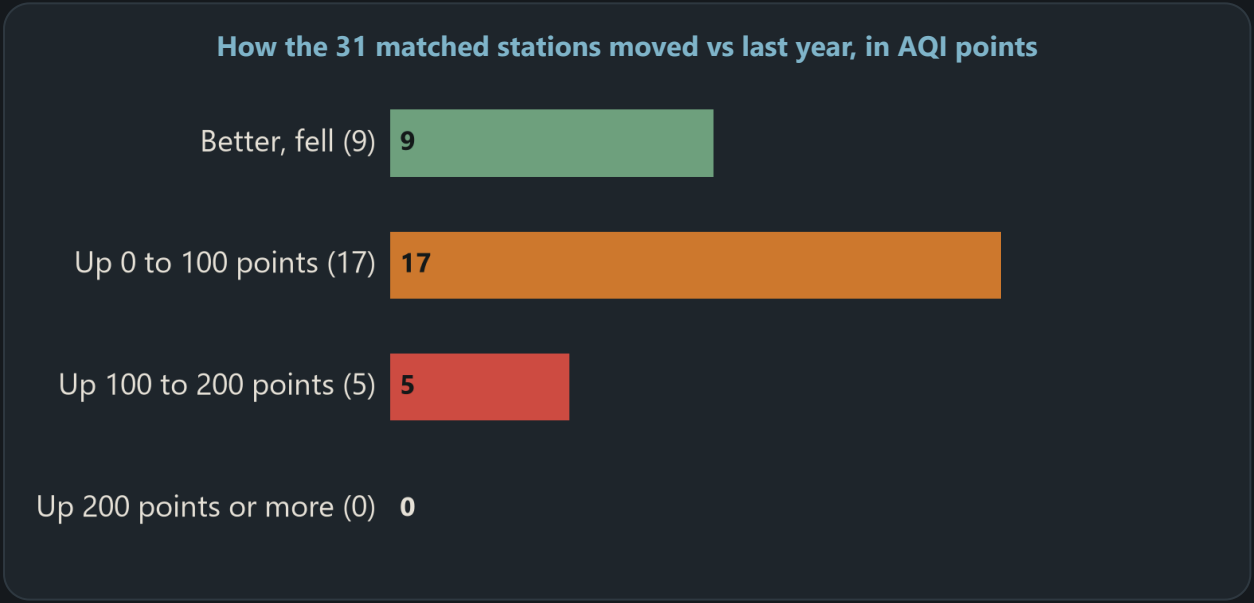
Against last year: the observed reading

35.6

points on last year, observed

Today 414 across 47 stations. The year is judged on the 31 matched stations: 418 today against 382, the mean of the same date ±7 days of 2025 at those stations. The interval runs 10.2 to 59.8 points.





READING Reading: the observed year-on-year change, on the feed's own canonical figure. The lower panel sizes the moves behind that one number, station by station.

CAUTION Caution: the stations that read higher than last year did so by a median of 55.3 points, and those that read lower by a median of 37.1 points, so the average hides both. Weighted by population, today reads 416 across the 44 stations with a mapped zone; on the 31 stations matched with last year it reads 421 against 385, a change of 35.8 points.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

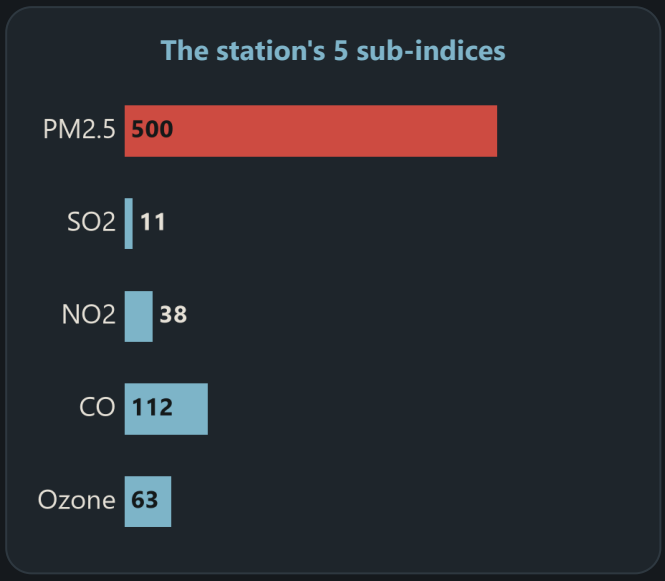
The observed year reads worse than the same days of last year, on CPCB's documented formula.

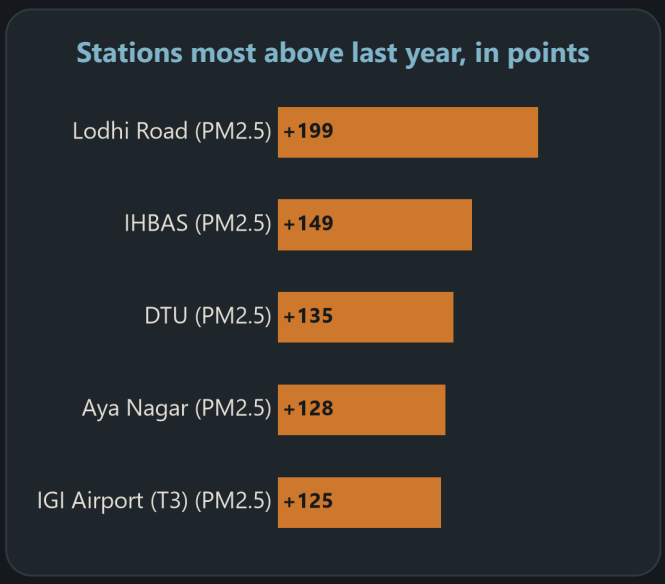
The worst station in the city today

500

Chhawla, Delhi-DPCC

Severe, set by PM2.5. Its PM2.5 averaged 421.7 µg/m³ over the 24 hours to 4 PM, 28.1 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³. 1.5 lakh people live within 4 km of this monitor. Within 500 m of the monitor, 5% of the land is built up and 95% is under vegetation, so this reading describes open ground rather than a residential street, and should not be read as typical of where people live.





READING Reading: a station's AQI is its worst pollutant's sub-index; the red bar set today's figure. The lower panel lists the stations most above last year, in points, each with the pollutant that sets its figure today.

CAUTION Caution: one station describes one neighbourhood. Its sub-indices are printed so that the reading can be checked, and the land around the monitor is stated below the figure because it decides how far the reading travels.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1]. Land cover from ESA WorldCover 2021 v200, 10 m, CC BY 4.0.

THE POINT

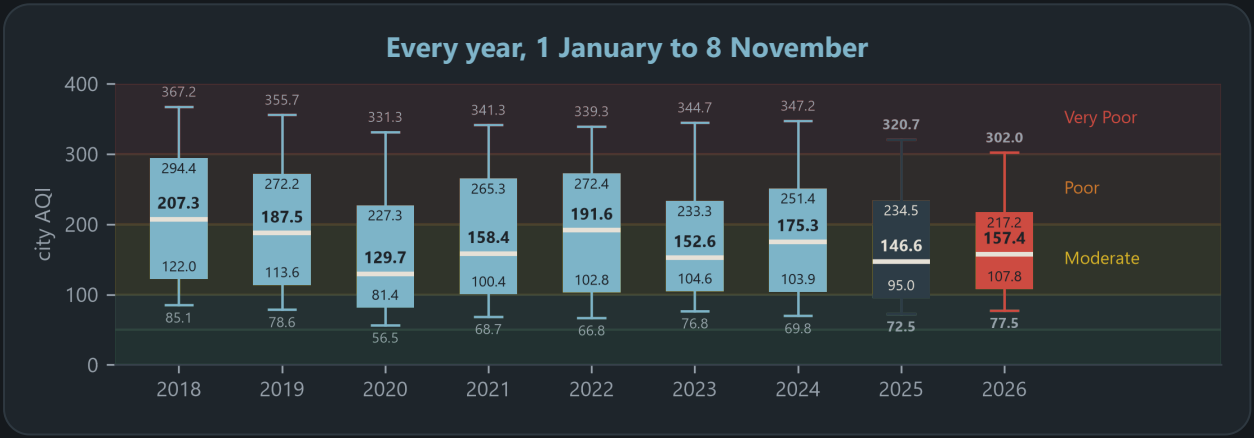
While the city averaged Severe, Chhawla sat at 500, Severe, and 1.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it. An average is not an experience.

The year, from its best days to its worst

157.4

the middle day of 2026, against 146.6 in 2025

On the same 312 complete dates, 1 January to 8 November, the best tenth of days reads 77.5 against 72.5 and the worst tenth 302.0 against 320.7. The days at or below 200 went from 211 to 219.





READING Reading: the box holds the middle half of that year's days, the white rule inside it is the middle day, and the whiskers reach its best and worst tenth. The bands behind are the CPCB categories, so a year that improved would slide the whole box down through them.

CAUTION Caution: the whiskers are the tenth and ninetieth percentiles, not the extremes, so each year's worst days lie above them. These are the 312 complete dates present in every year. Neighbouring days resemble each other, so the margins are computed by resampling runs of 14 consecutive dates; on that test none of the six measures, from the best tenth to the worst, has moved outside its margin since last year.

SOURCE Computed from the CREA compilation of the CPCB hourly record, CPCB 2014 sub-index, calendar day, city figure the mean of station AQIs; PM basis, the higher of the PM2.5 and PM10 sub-indices [1].

THE POINT

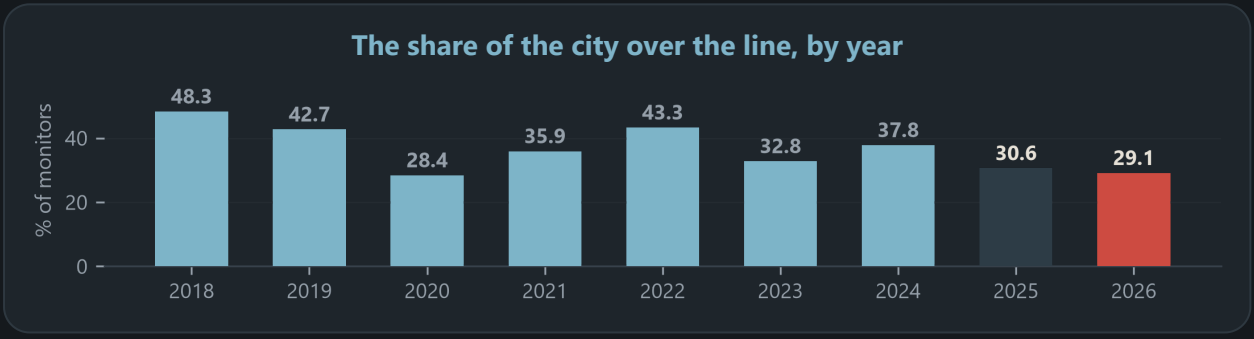
The cleaner days of 2026 have been the dirtiest for these dates since 2019: the lower quarter stands at 107.8, against 95.0 in 2025 and 113.6 in 2019.

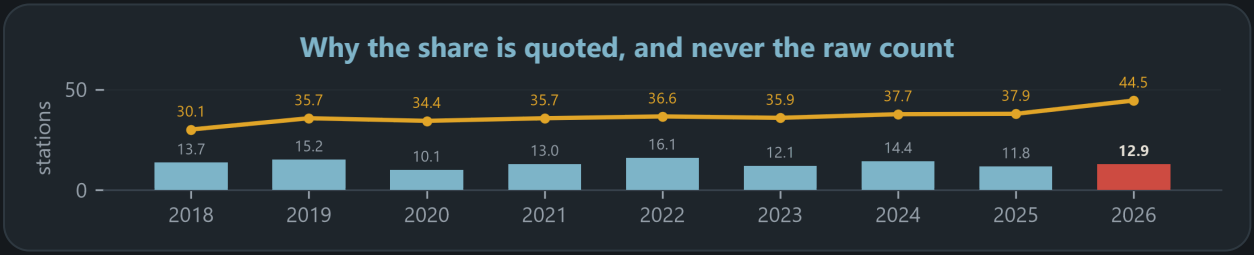
How much of the city was above AQI 200

29.1%

of Delhi's monitors above AQI 200 on an average day

That is 12.9 of 44.5 reporting stations, against 30.6 per cent over the same dates last year, a change of -1.5 points on an interval of -8.3 to +4.6, so it is unchanged inside its margin.





READING Reading: the upper bar is the share of Delhi's own reporting monitors that read above AQI 200 on an average day of that year, so it shows how much of the city was over the line, not how the city average behaved. Beneath it the amber line counts the monitors reporting at all, and the bars count how many of those read above 200.

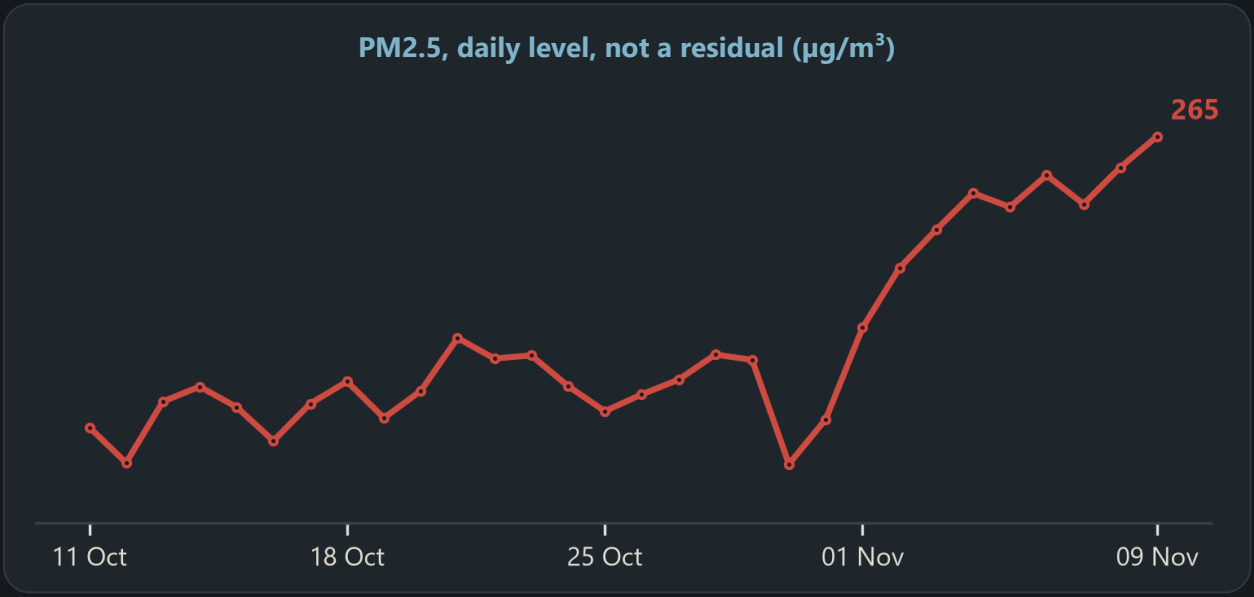
CAUTION Caution: the share is quoted and never the raw count, because the reporting network grew from 28 stations to 43 across this record, and a rising count of stations over 200 could mean nothing more than a growing network. It is measured on each day against that day's own reporting stations and then averaged, so it is not exactly the one line below divided by the other.

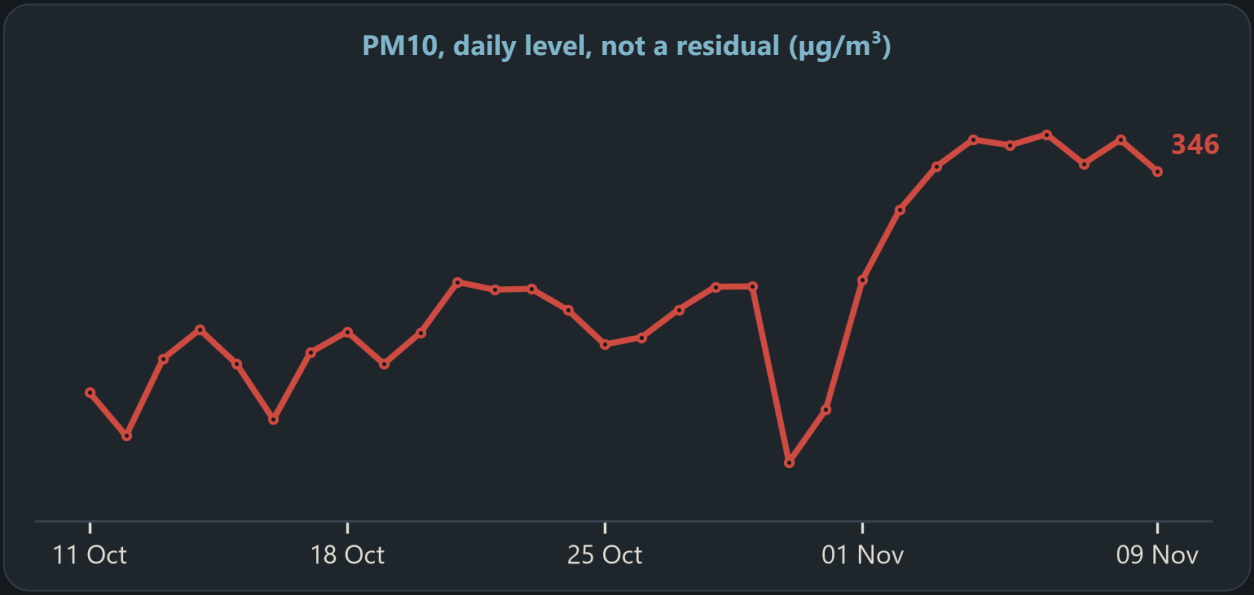
SOURCE Computed from the CREA compilation of the CPCB hourly record, CPCB 2014 sub-index, calendar day, city figure the mean of station AQIs; PM basis, the higher of the PM2.5 and PM10 sub-indices [1].

THE POINT

On an average day this year, about 12 of the 44 reporting monitors, 29.1 per cent, sat above 200 on the particle AQI.

Thirty days of measured levels: PM2.5 and PM10



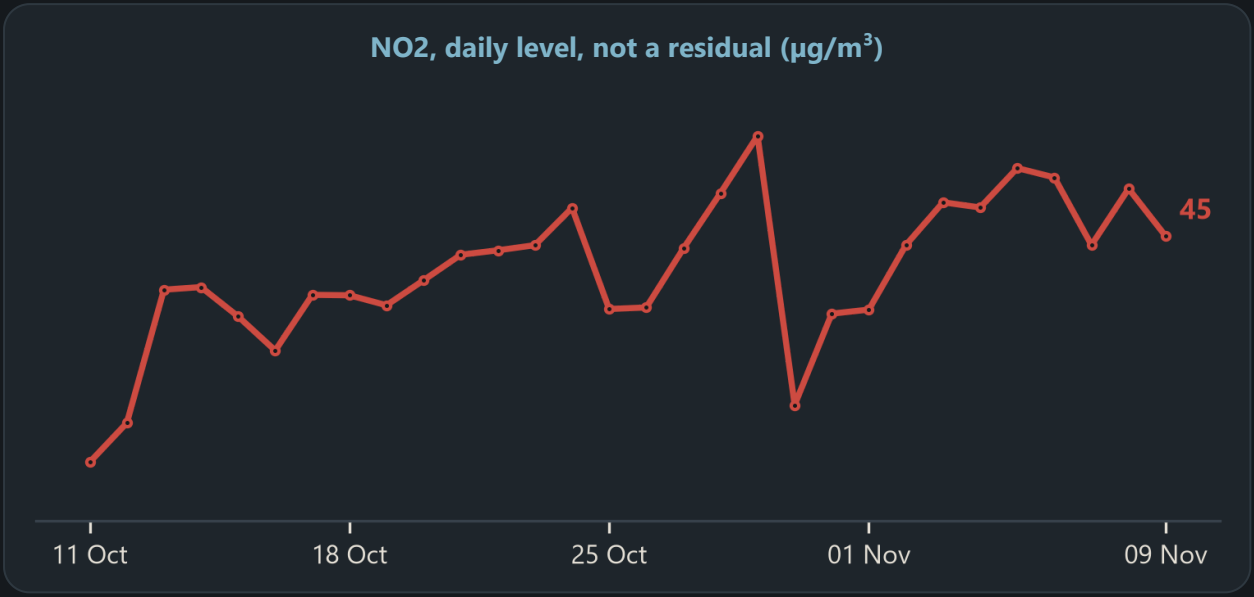


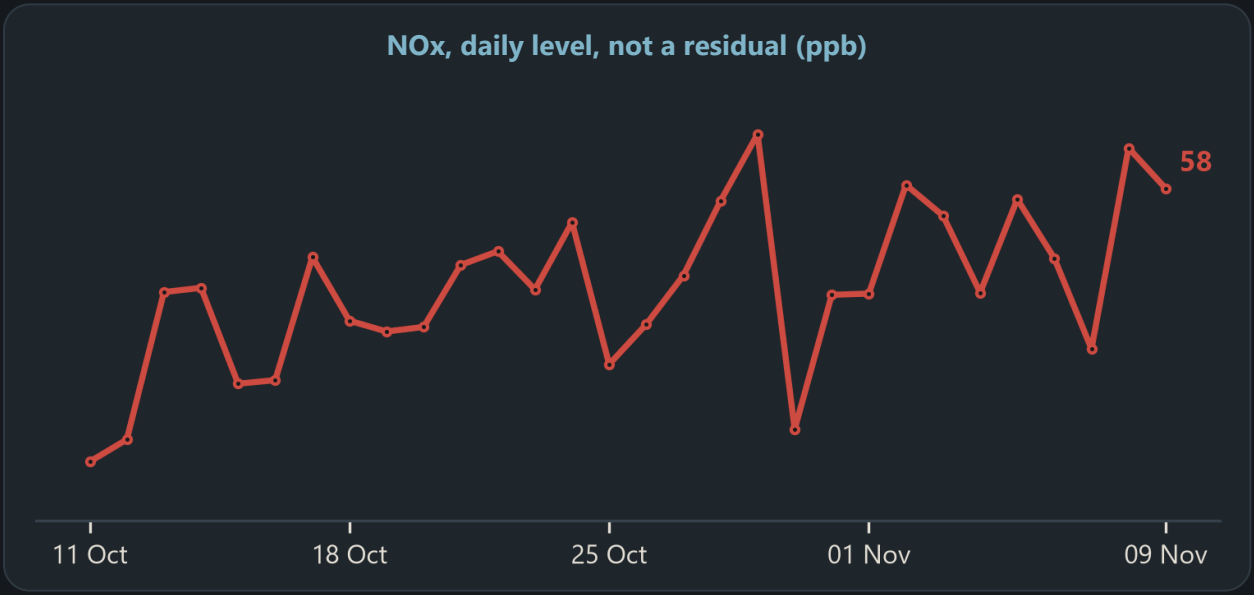
READING	Reading: these are the city's measured daily levels for the last thirty days, as the monitors recorded them; higher means more pollution that day. Gaps mark days when too few stations had sixteen of the 24 hourly readings.
CAUTION	Caution: 24-hour city means to 4 PM, the average of every station with sixteen or more hourly readings, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NOx is in ppb.
SOURCE	CPCB's hourly station readings for the thirty days to 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Each day's city figure is the mean of the stations with sixteen or more of the 24 hourly readings to 4 PM [1].

THE POINT

On the latest day, as measured, the city's PM2.5 read 265.1 µg/m³ and PM10 346.2 µg/m³.

Thirty days of measured levels: NO2 and NOx



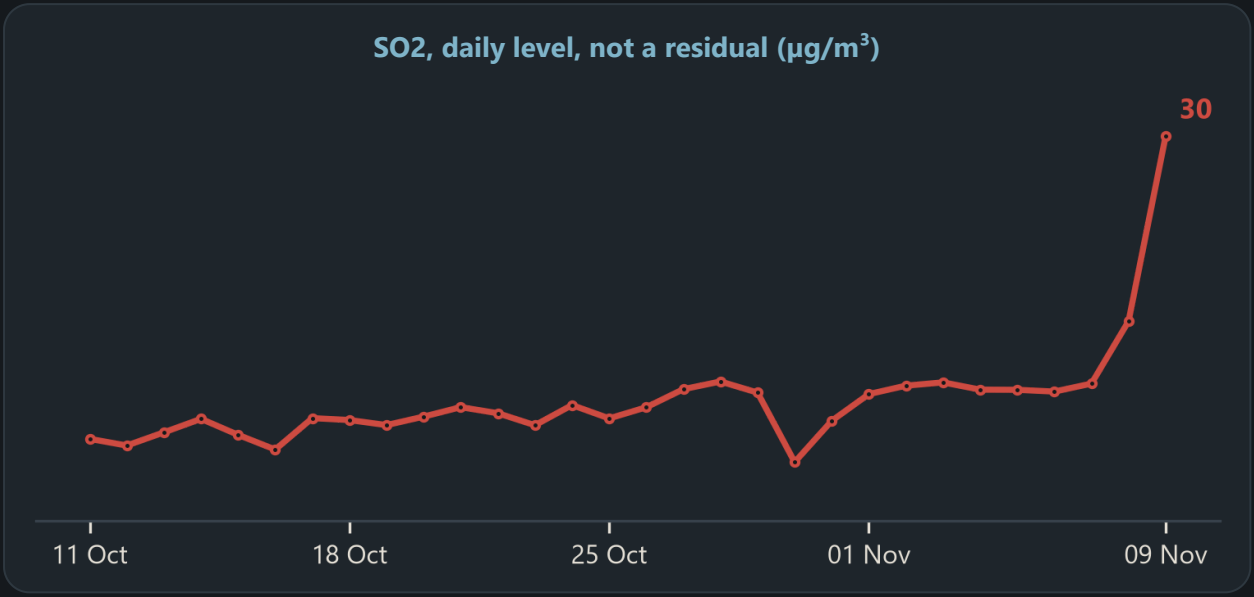


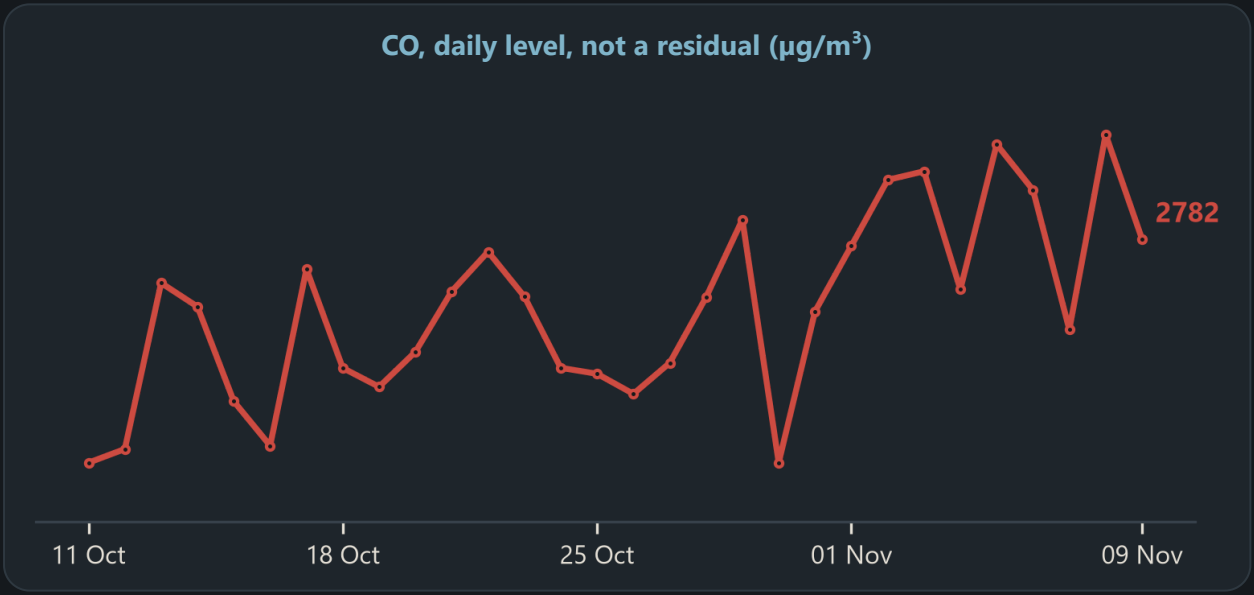
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THE POINT

On the latest day, as measured, the city's nitrogen dioxide read 44.5 µg/m³ and nitrogen oxides 58.2 ppb.

Thirty days of measured levels: SO2 and CO





READING	Reading: these are the city's measured daily levels for the last thirty days, as the monitors recorded them; higher means more pollution that day. Gaps mark days when too few stations had sixteen of the 24 hourly readings.
CAUTION	Caution: 24-hour city means to 4 PM, the average of every station with sixteen or more hourly readings, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NOx is in ppb.
SOURCE	CPCB's hourly station readings for the thirty days to 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Each day's city figure is the mean of the stations with sixteen or more of the 24 hourly readings to 4 PM [1].

THE POINT

On the latest day, as measured, the city's sulphur dioxide read 30 µg/m³ and carbon monoxide 2781.5 µg/m³ on its 8-hour maximum.

Thirty days of measured levels: Ozone



READING Reading: these are the city's measured daily levels for the last thirty days, as the monitors recorded them; higher means more pollution that day. Gaps mark days when too few stations had sixteen of the 24 hourly readings.

CAUTION Caution: 24-hour city means to 4 PM, the average of every station with sixteen or more hourly readings, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NOx is in ppb.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the thirty days to 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Each day's city figure is the mean of the stations with sixteen or more of the 24 hourly readings to 4 PM [1].

THE POINT

On the latest day, as measured, the city's ozone read 40.9 µg/m³ on its 8-hour maximum.

Who the monitoring network reaches

2.2 km

from the typical resident to the nearest monitor

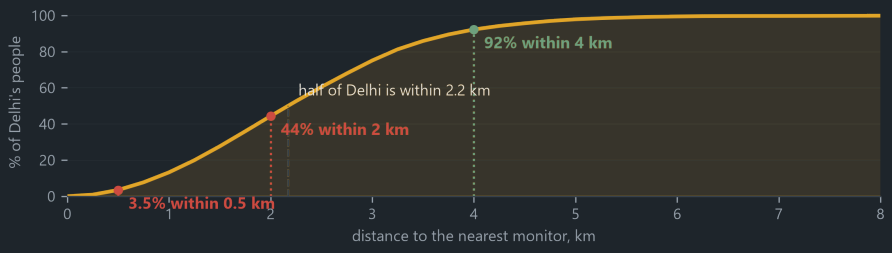
Within 4 km live 92 per cent of Delhi's people, within 2 km 44 per cent, and within 500 m only 3.5 per cent. The map holds 55 monitors in 53 zones; 47 monitors reported today. 33 of the 53 zones stretch past our chosen 4 km proximity threshold, informed by US EPA neighbourhood-scale guidance.

The network on the map

53 mapped zones, and their 2 km circles



How far Delhi lives from its nearest monitor



READING Reading: the curve is the distance from a Delhi resident to their nearest monitor, counted over every person in the city. The three marked points are the shares within 500 m, 2 km and 4 km, so they are readings of one curve rather than three separate facts.

CAUTION Caution: living near a monitor is not protection. This measures proximity to the network, not the air itself. Monitors just outside Delhi are excluded here, and counting them would add about 0.3 points at 4 km.

SOURCE Population shape: WorldPop India, constrained, 2026, R2025A v1, 100 m, CC BY 4.0. Per-constituency totals are conserved after clipping to Delhi. Constituency shares: 2025 Delhi electoral data, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). The 4 km proximity threshold is informed by US EPA guidance, 40 CFR 58 App D s1.2; it is not a representation limit. Method after Manoj Kumar, "604 air quality stations. But how well do they represent India?", India Air Quality & Energy Insights, 11 August 2026.

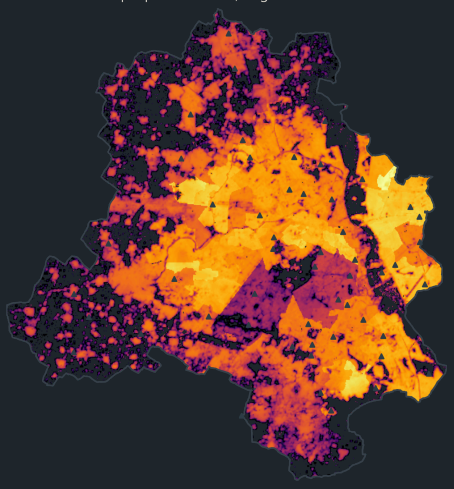
THE POINT

17.6 lakh Delhi residents live more than 4 km from any monitor, beyond our chosen proximity threshold.

Where Delhi's people are, and how the zones are drawn

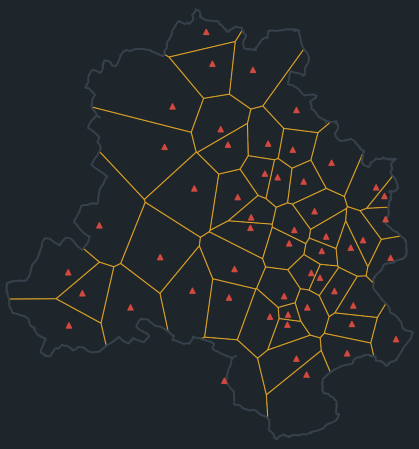
Where the people are

People per 100 m cell, brighter is denser



The zones those people fall in

The 53 zones, tiling Delhi exactly



The Voronoi method, in full

What a Voronoi zone is

Draw a line halfway between each pair of neighbouring monitors. Those lines cut the city into one patch per monitor. Every point in a patch sits nearest that monitor. The patches meet with no gaps and no overlaps, so together they cover Delhi exactly once.

Why the zones differ in size

A monitor in central Delhi has close neighbours on every side, so its zone comes out small. A monitor on the outskirts has few neighbours, so its zone is large. Zone size measures how thinly the network is spread, and not how dirty the air is.

How a zone becomes a weight

The grid counts the people inside each zone. That share then becomes the monitor's weight. A monitor speaking for a tenth of Delhi counts for a tenth, where once it counted the same as one speaking for a fiftieth.

What the weighting allows for, and what it cannot

Monitors are not spread the way people are, and the weighting allows for that. It weights a city average, so it is never an estimate of what one person breathed.

READING Reading: the left map is the population grid, one cell per 100 m, and brighter means denser. The right map cuts Delhi into one zone per monitor, so every point belongs to its nearest one.

CAUTION Caution: the grid is a model, not a census. It places people where satellites see buildings. Constituency shares come from 2025 electoral data, scaled to the reporting year's official population projection. These are estimates of residents, not a new census.

SOURCE Population shape: WorldPop India, constrained, 2026, R2025A v1, 100 m, CC BY 4.0. Per-constituency totals are conserved after clipping to Delhi. Constituency shares: 2025 Delhi electoral data, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). The 4 km proximity threshold is informed by US EPA guidance, 40 CFR 58 App D s1.2; it is not a representation limit. Method after Manoj Kumar, "604 air quality stations. But how well do they represent India?", India Air Quality & Energy Insights, 11 August 2026.

THE POINT

Weighting each monitor by the people in its zone gives a city average that follows where people live, and these zones are how each weight is worked out.

What each monitor's reading speaks for

1.90 crore

live within 4 km of a monitor rated Poor or worse today

That is 83.8 per cent of Delhi, living around the 47 monitors that read Poor or worse. Chhawla was worst at 500, and 1.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it. This counts people near the monitors, not measured individual exposure.

Today, Poor or worse

Chhawla	500 · 1.5 lakh
Aya Nagar	490 · 65,698
Punjabi Bagh	477 · 16.9 lakh
IGI Airport (T3)	460 · 2.6 lakh
Lodhi Road	460 · 0

Also Poor or worse: DTU 453, and 40 more, every one named in the station table.

AQI, then people within 4 km. These circles overlap, so the figures do not add.

Station	Lakh within 4 km	Reach km	Avg km
IHBAS, Dilshad Garden	22.8	4.2	2.3
Mundka	19.5	6.4	2.6
Vivek Vihar	17.2	3.0	1.1
Punjabi Bagh	16.9	5.0	2.1
Shadipur	16.5	3.5	1.8
Sonia Vihar	15.8	5.0	2.6
Okhla Phase-2	15.8	3.8	1.7
Anand Vihar	15.3	3.7	1.9
Patparganj	15.1	4.2	1.9
Wazirpur	15.1	3.3	1.6
NSIT Dwarka	14.1	6.2	3.1
Ashok Vihar	14.1	3.5	1.8
Chandni Chowk	13.4	4.2	2.1
Mandir Marg	13.3	3.5	2.0
Rohini	13.2	4.0	2.1
CRRI Mathura Road	13.0	4.2	1.7
Jahangirpuri	12.5	4.7	1.9
Dr. Karni Singh Shooting	11.7	3.9	2.3
Commonwealth Sports Compl	11.7	3.8	1.3
Pusa	11.5	5.7	2.5
Nehru Nagar	10.4	3.3	1.4

READING Reading: each row gives the people living within 4 km of that monitor, then how far its zone reaches, then how far its average resident sits. The 4 km radius is a proximity threshold, not a representation limit. The large figure is today's, so it moves with the pollution and not with the map.

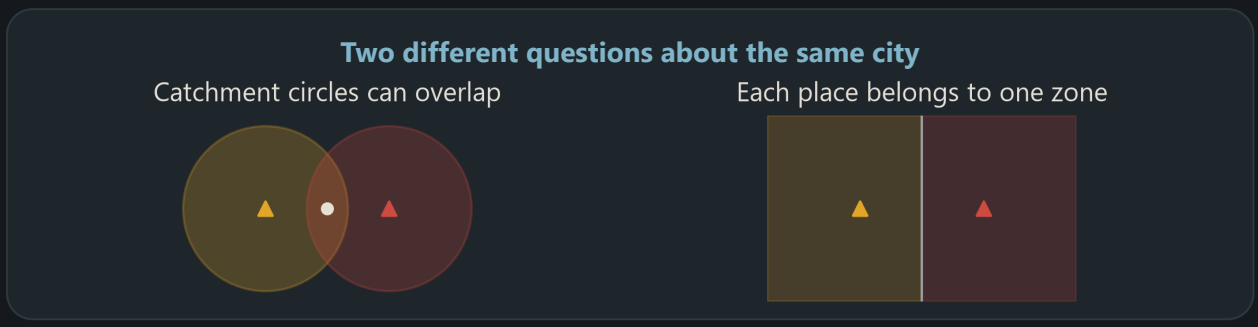
CAUTION Caution: these circles overlap, heavily at 4 km. Added up they return about twice Delhi's population, so read the column one monitor at a time. It has no valid total. Living within 4 km is not the same as breathing that exact reading. Ghoga, Lodhi Road and Tikri Kalan have no mapped location, so the people around them are not counted.

SOURCE Population shape: WorldPop India, constrained, 2026, R2025A v1, 100 m, CC BY 4.0. Per-constituency totals are conserved after clipping to Delhi. Constituency shares: 2025 Delhi electoral data, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). The 4 km proximity threshold is informed by US EPA guidance, 40 CFR 58 App D s1.2; it is not a representation limit. Method after Manoj Kumar, "604 air quality stations. But how well do they represent India?", India Air Quality & Energy Insights, 11 August 2026.

THE POINT

Today Chhawla read 500, Severe, set by PM2.5, and 1.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it.

How the population estimates are made



WorldPop grid

The 2026 modelled population map (R2025A v1), with cells about 100 m wide. It distributes people within each constituency; it does not set Delhi's total.

Electoral anchor

Each constituency receives the official Delhi population total in proportion to its registered electors in 2025. The total uses the reporting year's 1 July projection.

Station zone and weight

Zones partition Delhi without overlap. A zone's share of mapped residents is its weight. In the weighted average, available monitors sharing a zone are averaged first.

4 km circle and coverage

A circle counts residents within 4 km of a monitor, clipped to Delhi. Circles overlap. Network coverage counts residents in their combined area once.

Reach km and Avg km

Reach is the farthest populated cell's distance to its nearest monitor. Avg is the population-weighted mean distance in that monitor's zone.

People near Poor or worse

Residents in the combined 4 km circles of monitors with screened AQI above 200. Each resident counts once. This estimates proximity, not individual exposure.

READING Reading: circles answer who lives near a monitor; zones assign the population weights. The diagram illustrates the difference and is not Delhi data.

CAUTION Caution: population, registration and settlement patterns can differ. The estimates assume one residents-per-elector ratio across constituencies. The same station weights are used on both sides of a pollution comparison.

SOURCE Population shape: WorldPop India, constrained, 2026, R2025A v1, 100 m, CC BY 4.0. Per-constituency totals are conserved after clipping to Delhi. Constituency shares: 2025 Delhi electoral data, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). The 4 km proximity threshold is informed by US EPA guidance, 40 CFR 58 App D s1.2; it is not a representation limit. Method after Manoj Kumar, "604 air quality stations. But how well do they represent India?", India Air Quality & Energy Insights, 11 August 2026.

THE POINT

The projection sets the total, electoral data sets constituency shares, and the grid places people within them.

Every reporting station

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant	PM2.5 µg/m³	PM10 µg/m³
1	Chhawla	500	Severe	PM2.5	423	no data
2	Aya Nagar	490	Severe	PM2.5	367	425
3	Punjabi Bagh	477	Severe	PM2.5	350	319
4	IGI Airport (T3)	460	Severe	PM2.5	327	no data
5	Lodhi Road	460	Severe	PM2.5	328	422
6	DTU	453	Severe	PM2.5	318	443
7	CRRI Mathura Road	451	Severe	PM2.5	316	344
8	North Campus	449	Severe	PM2.5	312	379
9	Talkatora Garden	449	Severe	PM2.5	312	no data
10	Karala	448	Severe	PM2.5	311	341
11	Shadipur	446	Severe	PM2.5	309	384
12	Mundka	438	Severe	PM2.5	299	349
13	Jharoda Kalan	437	Severe	PM2.5	298	441
14	IMD Lodhi Road	436	Severe	PM2.5	295	no data
15	Nangloi	432	Severe	PM2.5	291	366
16	JNU	432	Severe	PM2.5	291	350

READING Reading: all 47 stations that reported in today's window, worst first. Each station's AQI is on CPCB's documented formula: the worst of its pollutant sub-indices. The last two columns are the measured 24-hour average PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations in µg/m³ over the same window.

CAUTION Caution: a monitor speaks for its own neighbourhood, not for the city. The network is not identical from day to day, because stations report on different schedules.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Not one of the 16 stations on this page was rated Good. The highest here is Chhawla at 500.

Every reporting station, continued

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant	PM2.5 µg/m³	PM10 µg/m³
17	Jahangirpuri	431	Severe	PM2.5	289	423
18	Patparganj	431	Severe	PM2.5	290	342
19	Chandni Chowk	431	Severe	PM2.5	290	425
20	Pusa	427	Severe	PM2.5	284	373
21	Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range	425	Severe	PM2.5	281	302
22	Vivek Vihar	424	Severe	PM2.5	280	344
23	Bawana	423	Severe	PM2.5	279	384
24	Tikri Kalan	422	Severe	PM10	244	447
25	Mandir Marg	422	Severe	PM2.5	277	335
26	NIH Narela	421	Severe	PM2.5	276	367
27	Burari Crossing	421	Severe	PM2.5	276	371
28	Ghummanhera	420	Severe	PM2.5	274	357
29	IHBAS	419	Severe	PM2.5	274	276
30	Sirifort	415	Severe	PM2.5	269	274
31	Rohini	411	Severe	PM2.5	264	369
32	Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium	392	Very Poor	PM2.5	239	307

READING Reading: the table continues, same window, same method, worst first.

CAUTION Caution: a monitor speaks for its own neighbourhood, not for the city. The network is not identical from day to day, because stations report on different schedules.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Not one of the 16 stations on this page was rated Good.

Every reporting station, continued

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant	PM2.5 µg/m³	PM10 µg/m³
33	Sonia Vihar	388	Very Poor	PM2.5	234	312
34	Badarpur	385	Very Poor	PM2.5	231	275
35	Cantonment Area	383	Very Poor	PM10	204	416
36	Anand Vihar	381	Very Poor	PM2.5	225	308
37	Wazirpur	375	Very Poor	PM2.5	217	346
38	Burari	374	Very Poor	PM2.5	216	380
39	Ghoga	374	Very Poor	PM10	214	409
40	Okhla Phase-2	371	Very Poor	PM2.5	213	264
41	Ashok Vihar	366	Very Poor	PM2.5	205	312
42	Vasundhara Enclave	364	Very Poor	PM2.5	202	368
43	Sri Aurobindo Marg	355	Very Poor	PM2.5	191	310
44	Maidan Garhi	353	Very Poor	PM2.5	188	232
45	Narela	344	Very Poor	PM2.5	176	249
46	Alipur	336	Very Poor	PM2.5	166	236
47	IGNOU Maidan Garhi	306	Very Poor	PM10	112	354

READING Reading: the table continues, same window, same method, worst first.

CAUTION Caution: a monitor speaks for its own neighbourhood, not for the city. The network is not identical from day to day, because stations report on different schedules.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Not one of the 15 stations on this page was rated Good.

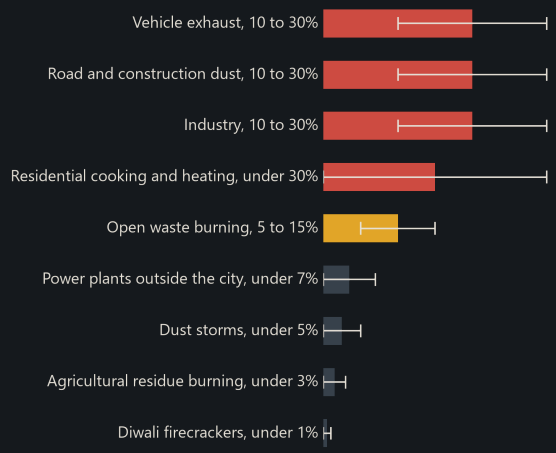
What the daily figures cannot say alone

The year behind today

Over the twelve months to 9 November 2026, Delhi's mean PM2.5 was 92.5 micrograms per cubic metre, which is 18.5 times the WHO annual guideline and 2.3 times India's annual standard, computed over 15,783 complete station-days at 60 reference stations. This is this office's own computation: the mean PM2.5 concentration over complete station-days at reference-grade monitors. The daily headline is an AQI figure, the mean of the station AQIs, so the two measure different things and are not interchangeable. The published calendar-year means, 106 in 2021, 100 in 2022, 103 in 2023 and 102 in 2024 micrograms per cubic metre, come from UrbanEmissions.Info, What Is Polluting Delhi's Air, 2023-24 update, from a 40 station network; they cover a different network and a different period from the figure above, so the two cannot be read as a trend. A single day is the wrong unit for a policy verdict, which is why this page carries the year beside it.

What is actually polluting this air

Across studies from 1990 to 2022, vehicle exhaust, road and construction dust and industry, including power plants each account for 10 to 30 per cent of Delhi's annual PM2.5, so no single sector explains the level and no single remedy can fix it. Agricultural residue burning is under 3 per cent of Delhi's ANNUAL average PM2.5, though its share in a smoke episode is far higher. Diwali firecrackers are under 1 per cent of the annual average, as a two day extreme event. These are annual shares. In winter the residential heating share rises sharply, and the seasonal sources rise with it. Source: Guttikunda and colleagues, What Is Polluting Delhi's Air? A Review from 1990 to 2022, Sustainability, 2023, Table 5.



Each bar is the midpoint and the whisker is the published range, so the width of a whisker is how much the studies disagree. The top three overlap completely, which is the finding: no one sector can be named the villain.

What the delay costs

Holding at 92.6 micrograms per cubic metre instead of reaching the 40 target by 2040 costs Delhi about 31 per cent more exposure and estimated mortality, and the delay since 2019 has already added about 23 per cent. The cost of delay has at least doubled since the National Clean Air Programme began, with little to no change in concentrations between 2019 and 2025. Reaching 40 micrograms per cubic metre by 2040 needs at least 10 to 15 years of systematic implementation across every sector at regional scale. These are increases in exposure and estimated mortality against reaching the target, not sums of money. Source: Guttikunda and colleagues, 40 by 2040: Cost of inaction and delays in reaching Delhi's air quality target, SIM-air working paper 63-2025, Tables 3 and 4.

The source shares and the cost of delay on this page are published work, cited so the reader can check them; the year's mean is this office's own, as its paragraph says.

The method, in plain English

How CPCB's AQI is formed

The air-quality index, or AQI, turns the reading of each pollutant into a sub-index on one scale from 0 to 500, through breakpoints that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) publishes. A station's AQI is the highest of its pollutant sub-indices, and the pollutant that sets it is named beside it. This record follows CPCB's documented formula, quoted from both of CPCB's documents on page 28. It computes six pollutants; CPCB's note counts eight, and ammonia and lead are not included here. The day is the 24 hours ending 4 PM. This record moved to that window on 13 October 2026; the daily figures first published for 7 June to 12 October 2026 used the 24 hours ending 10 AM. The city figure is the mean of the station AQIs, on the stations that report enough hours in the window: 47 today.

How today is compared with last year

Last year is never a single day. It is the average of the same date and the seven days either side of it in 2025, using only the stations that reported in both years, which is 31 stations today. Neighbouring days are alike, so the 15 days act like about seven independent readings. Festival emissions are real pollution and stay in, so a festival such as Diwali that falls in one year's window and not the other's carries that caveat in October and November.

What population-weighted means

Delhi's monitors are not spread evenly over its people, so the weighted figure divides the city into zones, one per monitor, with every point belonging to its nearest monitor. The people in each Assembly Constituency come from the 2025 Delhi electoral shares, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84), and where people live inside each constituency comes from the WorldPop 2026 constrained grid at 100 m, R2025A v1. Cells use the raster's native alignment and are clipped to Delhi. Boundary-gap cells take the nearest constituency; each constituency's allocation is preserved. A station's weight is its zone's share of the people, re-scaled each day over the stations that reported. One residents-per-elector ratio may misallocate population where age or registration coverage differs. Both years in a pollution comparison use the same weights. No weighting corrects a monitor's siting or calibration.

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026 (CREA compilation); 2025 Delhi electoral shares, the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84), and the WorldPop 2026 grid.

The method, in plain English

A single gas reading at one monitor can be raised by a fault in the analyser or by a source beside the monitor, and one day's data cannot tell which, so this record does not lead on a reading that carbon monoxide set, and it sets aside a channel whose monitor fails its nitrogen oxide consistency check.

How a change is judged

Every observed change is given a range by resampling the stations or the days, and a change whose range spans zero is counted as unchanged, never as better or worse.

The WHO guidelines

A day's concentration is set against the WHO 24-hour guideline: 15 µg/m³ for PM2.5 and 45 µg/m³ for PM10. WHO defines each 24-hour level as the 99th percentile of a year's days, which allows three or four days a year above it, and sets annual levels of 5 and 15 µg/m³ (WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines 2021, Table 0.1).

Words used

AQI: the air-quality index, 0 to 500, higher is worse: 0 to 50 Good, 51 to 100 Satisfactory, 101 to 200 Moderate, 201 to 300 Poor, 301 to 400 Very Poor, over 400 Severe. µg/m³: micrograms of a pollutant in a cubic metre of air. Particle AQI: the higher of the PM2.5 and PM10 sub-indices, used for the year pages. Range: how far a figure moves when the set of reporting stations is resampled; Residual: one day's level minus the same days of last year.

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026 (CREA compilation); WHO's Global Air Quality Guidelines, 2021, Table 0.1.

CPCB's documented formula, in plain words

The formula

This record calculates Delhi's AQI with CPCB's documented formula. CPCB's AQI Calculator asks for the 24-hour average of PM2.5, PM10, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide and the "max 8-hr" value of carbon monoxide and ozone, and converts each through CPCB's published breakpoints; CPCB's note "How is AQI calculated?" says the sub-index uses the "24-hourly average concentration value (8-hourly in case of CO and O3)". A station's AQI is its worst pollutant's sub-index, and the city figure is the mean of the station AQIs. This record computes six pollutants, without ammonia and lead, which the note also counts.

The 8-hour rule, in plain words

Carbon monoxide and ozone are averaged over 8 hours rather than 24. The day's 24 hours, ending at 4 PM, hold several 8-hour blocks that lie wholly inside them, and this record takes the highest 8-hour average among those blocks. The calculator asks for the maximum 8-hour value, and the note's fourth point says the index takes in data from the previous 24 hours only, so no hour from before the day's window is used.

Today, on this formula

	On CPCB's documented formula
Delhi's AQI today	413.8
CPCB's category	Severe
Stations in the mean	47
Highest station	Chhawla, 500

The window is the 24 hours ending 4 PM on 09 November 2026. The city figure is the mean of the AQIs of the 47 stations that reported enough hours in that window; the highest station's figure was set by PM2.5.

CPCB's six categories

AQI	CPCB's category
0 to 50	Good
51 to 100	Satisfactory
101 to 200	Moderate
201 to 300	Poor
301 to 400	Very Poor
401 to 500	Severe

A higher AQI is worse air. The category of a station, and of the city, is the band its AQI falls in.

CPCB's own documents

CPCB's note, "How is AQI calculated?": https://airquality.cpcb.gov.in/ccr_docs/How_AQI_Calculated.pdf. CPCB's AQI Calculator: https://cpcb.nic.in/upload/national-air-quality-index/AQI-Calculator.xls.

Source: CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 09 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA); CPCB's note and calculator as linked on this page.

Every figure traces to a dated feed

Sources: the six feeds behind the record of 09 November 2026, each with its own date below.

01 CPCB's hourly station readings, as compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), read on 9 November 2026. The window is the 24 hours ending 4 PM. The city figure is the mean of station AQIs, and each station's AQI is its worst sub-index on CPCB's documented formula.

02 Population weighting uses the 2025 Delhi electoral shares, from about 15.61 million registered electors in Election Commission turnout data. The total is the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). Where they sit inside a constituency comes from the WorldPop 2026 constrained population grid at 100 m, R2025A v1, adopted 18 October 2026 in place of the previous 2020 grid. This modelled alpha release is frozen by file hash; it is not a new census. Each constituency's allocated total is preserved. Station zones are a Voronoi map of the active monitors. Tier 1 as data, all series dated.

03 Health characterisation: the CPCB category health descriptors as published with the index, and the WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines, 2021, for the PM2.5 and PM10 guidelines. Tier 1.

THE POINT

Every figure in this record is computed from the data before the report is written, and the report never edits a figure. Where a figure is not available, the page says so.